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December 2, 2014



On November 17, 2014 the West Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a Resolution in support of an Opt-Out program for residential advanced meter programs, A/K/A SMART meters.

Research has shown that residents who are highly sensitive to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) suffer from debilitating side effects such as insomnia, headaches, sharp pain and pressure in the head, fatigue, dizziness, blood sugar spikes and nausea. Michigan residents are already subjected to EMFs from a variety of sources, including daily cell phone usage, microwave ovens, and the rapid expansion for telecommunication signals being added to all utility poles (due to no regulations). We may choose to take risk in using microwave ovens rather than a conventional stove and we choose to use a cell phone rather than a land line, but there has been no choice for residents in the installation of advanced meters over analog meters by DTE. The added EMFs into our private dwelling are overwhelmingly intrusive and harmful to our health. Our health is collateral damage for DTEs profitability...in other words, DTE is charging telecommunication companies rent for antennas on utility poles and no longer employs analog meter readers. DTE has been highly profitable and would continue to be highly profitable without advanced meters in single and multiple dwelling units. Their profitability is based on a monopoly of utility service funded by the people that they are subjecting to health risk. As the West Bloomfield Township Supervisor I have been pro-development and have voted in support of waivers for new business construction. But, I have learned that while it appears as though it is cooperative and helpful, it has comprised the ability of these businesses to succeed. The City of Birmingham offers no waivers and the business still comes to their City and thrives. If the Legislature does not impose regulations for DTE which insists on these meters in our homes and the public is not in support it will create competition in the utility marketplace potentially to the demise of DTE.

Corporate America is not the same as the State Legislature. The role of government is to impose regulations for the health, safety and welfare of the community at large. The University of Michigan defines public health as "the science and art of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention...**public health works to prevent health problems before they occur.**" Our State Legislature has term limits...while you can impose regulations now, you may not have an opportunity later. Make no mistake we all have to live with these meters while there are no regulations. My 11-year old daughter complains of headaches and sleeps directly under a meter. There is no way to reconfigure the construction of the home to protect her from said meter. She, Chloe Ureste, requested that I give this testimonial today on her behalf. Since I requested the



DTE Opt-Out program, I have had two doctor visits about severe nausea and headaches. I have seen my doctor as recent as yesterday about nausea and headaches and took nausea medication this morning to get here today. I intend to hire experts to take periodic meter frequency reads at my home.

Residents are aware that DTE has not removed the analog meter at the private residence of *one of our* Representative . These residents asked DTE not to remove their analog meters and they were unsuccessful. These residents were threatened with utility shut off at an exorbitant cost. 

DTE will lead you to believe that you can Opt-Out of this program. I requested the Opt-Out and DTE will not return the analog meter. In fact, they will charge a fee to install a non-transmitting meter and a monthly charge for a manual meter reading. My residents who are highly sensitive to EMFs who have been in the Opt-Out program have continued to experience debilitating health side effects and their doctors have validated that their symptoms are a result of the electricity in their homes.

In conclusion, House Bill 4315 and Senate Bill 819 have both been introduced to regulate advanced meter programs and to protect a customer's right to opt out of the advanced meter program without penalty and utilize a non-transmitting meter at their residence. I commend the sponsors and co-sponsor of this proposed legislation and strongly encourage your support and vote. Based upon the previous statements, it is evident that the State Legislature has and extremely important job to do to stand up to the business community for the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Other States have done so. We may lose Michigan residents to these States if we do not impose regulations to protect our most basic needs.

Sincerest Regards,



Michele Economou Ureste, M.P.A.
West Bloomfield Township Supervisor